GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:480
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2015
WELFARE OF TRIBALS
Ram Shri Vishnu Dayal

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the pitiable conditions of the tribal people particularly those living in rural areas of the country including those in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government for the development of such backward tribal areas in the country;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch any new programme for providing nutrients to the tribal people in the tribal dominated areas in the country, especially in Jharkhand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHR1 JUAL ORAM)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha starred Question No. 480 for answer on 27.04.2015 asked by shri vishnu Dayal Ram, MP, regarding `Welfare of Tribals`.

(a): As per the poverty ratios estimated by the erstwhile Planning Commission, the percentage of population of Scheduled Tribes below poverty line in rural areas has improved from 47.4% in 2009-10 to 45.3% during 2011-12 at all India level. However, the State-wise figures show that the situation has worsened in some States in 2011-12 as compared to 2009-10. In respect of Jharkhand, the percentage of ST population below poverty line has slightly deteriorated at 51.6% in 2011-12 as compared to 51.5% in 2009-10. Details are at Annexure-1.

The Census of India figures for the years 2001 and 2011 show that the literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes in rural areas has increased to 56.9% in 2011 from 45% in 2001 at all India level. In respect of Jharkhand, there has been considerable improvement. The ST literacy rate in rural areas has gone up from 38.1% in 2001 to 55.2% in 2011. The all India and State/UT-wise ST literacy rate in rural areas as per Census 2001 and Census 2011 are given at Annexure-II. Various other indicators relating to health, education, livelihood, living conditions etc. in respect of STs, as reflected in Census 2011 and other socio-economic survey reports have shown improvement in the status of STs. However, there are still considerable gaps in the human development indices of the ST population as compared to the general population.

(b): Over the years, the Central and State Governments have been taking various initiatives for socio-economic upliftment of tribal population of the country. This includes the Tribal Sub Plan Strategy (TSP Strategy) implemented since 1974-75. Government through various interventions has strategized the overall development and welfare of tribal people across the country, which takes care of necessary support for education, health, sanitation, water supply, livelihood, etc. to improve their economic, educational and social conditions. The major part of development activities is carried out through various schemes/programmes of concerned Central Ministries and the State Governments, while the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides additive to these initiatives by way of plugging critical gaps.

(c)&(d): As of now, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has no proposal to launch any new programme for providing nutrients to the tribal people in the tribal dominated areas in the country. However, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has adopted the following approach to fight malnutrition in tribal communities:

(i) Advocacy for traditional millets and green vegetables,

(ii) Minor Millets in school and 'Integrated Child Development Services'(ICDS) menu,

(iii) Drinking water supplementary schemes supported (like open wells in case of fluoride contamination in hand pumps),

(iv) Dairy development, fishery and poultry farming,

(v) Kitchen gardens in residential schools, and

(vi) Under cash crop schemes (like wadi) backyard green leafy vegetables to be encouraged.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by the State Govemments/UT Administration. Under ICDS, Supplementary Nutrition is one of the services provided to the children below 6 years of age and pregnant women and lactating mother at anganwadi centres. The scheme is universal and open to all including tribal community across the country.